

Date Mailed February 2, 1998
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BEFORE THE  
  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Badger Power Marketing Authority of Wisconsin to Construct and Place in Operation a 115/138-34.5 kV Substation and Transmission Facilities, Located in the City of Clintonville, Waupaca County	285-CE-103
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Application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company to Construct and Place in Operation a 115/138 kV Electric Transmission Line and Associated Substation Facilities, Located in Shawano and Waupaca Counties	6630-CE-250
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**NOTICE OF HEARING AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>March 9, 1998, 1:30 and 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Hearing Location:</b>	<b>Clintonville Community Center 30 South Main Street Clintonville, Wisconsin</b>

On May 9, 1997, Badger Power Marketing Authority (BPMA) and Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCO) filed applications with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission). BPMA proposes to build and place in operation a 115/138-34.5 kV substation and transmission facilities in the city of Clintonville, Waupaca County. WEPCO proposes to build and place in operation a 115 kV electric transmission line (designed for 138 kV operation) of about 10 miles in length and associated substation facilities in the Towns of Pella and Belle Plaine in Shawano County and the Towns of Larrabee and Matteson in Waupaca County. The estimated total cost of the two projects is \$6,651,800.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the Commission intends to hold a public hearing on this application on March 9, 1998, at 1:30 p.m. and an evening hearing session at 7:00 p.m. in the Clintonville Community Center, 30 South Main Street (the corner of Main and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets), Clintonville, Wisconsin. This room is accessible to people in wheelchairs. Any person with a disability who needs additional accommodations should contact Richard Teslaw of the Commission staff at (608) 267-9766.

**Interests or concerns expressed outside the hearing or after the hearing is closed cannot be used by the Commission to make its decision.** The record of the public hearing is the legal basis for the final decision by the Commission on these applications. Property owners or any other persons having an interest or concern about the facilities or route are strongly urged to attend and participate in the public hearing.

The Commission has directed the Administrator of the Electric Division to draft a Proposed Order based upon the testimony and exhibits given in the public hearing. When drafted, the Proposed Order will be submitted to full parties for comment. After the comment period ends, the Proposed Order and the comments from all full parties will be submitted to the Commission. The Commission will then review the Proposed Order and the comments and issue a final decision on the project.

**The Commission will consider the merits of the project in its investigation, hearing, and decision. The Commission will decide if BPMA and WEPCO will be allowed to construct the projects and if there are special conditions to be met.**

The testimony of BPMA, WEPCO, and Commission staff witnesses will be available approximately one week prior to the hearing. Copies may be obtained in advance by calling Kenneth Rineer of the Commission staff at (608) 267-1201 (e-mail address: rineek@psc.state.wi.us). Copies will also be available at the hearing.

For the purposes of public notice and information, and in accordance with s. 196.491 (3)(a), Stats., copies of the application have been sent to the Clintonville Public Library, the Shawano County Public Library in Shawano, and the clerks of the Towns of Pella, Belle Plaine, Larrabee, and Matteson, the Village of Embarrass, and the City of Clintonville.

### **Need for New Facilities**

In their applications, BPMA and WEPCO state that the proposed facilities are necessary to provide adequate and reliable service to Clintonville. The Clintonville Water and Electric Utility (CW&E, a member of BPMA) buys power from WEPCO through BPMA. CW&E is served by a 10-mile 34.5 kV line from BPMA's Cloverleaf Substation to the northeast and a 7.5-mile 34.5 kV line from WEPCO's North Bear Creek Substation to the south. The North Bear Creek Substation is scheduled to be removed. At the same time, CW&E is experiencing increased demand for electricity. To avoid low voltage problems in Clintonville, BPMA and WEPCO propose to build a new substation and transmission connection to the WEPCO Badger Switching Station to the northeast.

## **Project Location**

There are two parts to this project. In one part, BPMA proposes to build a new Clintonville Substation on the northeast side of the city. BPMA has offered two alternative sites for this substation, both within an industrial park. In the other part, WEPCO proposes to build approximately 10 miles of 115 kV line from the new BPMA Clintonville Substation northward to the existing WEPCO Badger Switching Station on the east side of STH 22 northwest of Belle Plaine in Shawano County. There are six route alternatives (labeled A-F) for the project. Several alternatives have segments in common. Depending on the route alternative, the route could follow field boundaries, town roads, State Highway (STH) 22, or Wisconsin Public Service Corporation's existing 115 kV electric transmission line west of Belle Plaine. In some cases, it could cross fields. Among the line's route alternatives are three potential crossings of the Embarrass River: just south of the existing transmission line; along STH 22; or just north of the Behnke Road bridge. **Only one substation site and one of the potential transmission routes will be used. Please see the attached map.** The alternative sites and routes can also be seen in detail in aerial photographs at the hearing.

## **Project Cost and Schedule**

The total estimated cost of the proposed BPMA substation project is \$1,845,800. The total estimated cost of the proposed WEPCO transmission project is \$4,806,000. The cost of the two projects together would be \$6,651,800. Both BPMA and WEPCO propose to finance the projects from funds generated internally and/or from the sales of new securities. BPMA proposes to begin construction on the substation project in July 1998, and complete construction by June 1999. WEPCO proposes to begin construction on the transmission project beginning in October 1998, and complete construction by June 1999.

## **Environmental Review**

This action is classified as a Type II action according to s. PSC 4.10(2), Wis. Adm. Code. It requires the preparation of an environmental assessment to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary under s. 1.11, Stats. Persons wishing to comment on the environmental aspects of this case should send comments to Kenneth Rineer, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin, 53707-7854, or call (608) 267-1201 (e-mail address: rineek@psc.state.wi.us). In order to be considered in this analysis, comments must be received within 15 days of the mailing date of this notice.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that this matter is considered to be a Class 1 proceeding as defined in s. 227.01(3)(a), Stats. The application was filed pursuant to ss. 196.49 and 196.491, Stats., and chs. PSC 111 and 112, Wis. Adm. Code.

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**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the Commission considers it necessary in order to carry out its duties to investigate the books, accounts, practices and activities of the Applicants. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to the investigation will be assessed against and collected from the Applicants, in accordance with the provisions of s. 196.85, Stats., and ch. PSC 5, Wis. Adm. Code.

General questions about this matter may be answered by calling Kenneth Rineer of the Commission staff at (608) 267-1201 (e-mail address: rineek@psc.state.wi.us). Specific questions about the hearing process may be answered by calling John Crosetto, Hearing Examiner, at (608) 266-7165. Questions about the proposed projects may also be directed to utility representatives: Junior Janke, BPMA, at (715) 526-7721 or Terrance Bergman, WEPCO, at (414) 380-3301 or (800) 452-3311.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

For the Commission.

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Susan E. Stratton  
Administrator  
Electric Division

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Attachment